

I CLAIM:

1. A prosthetic implant assembly for implantation in a bone joint between first and second bones, such as the knee joint between a femur and a tibia, said bone joint having bone tunnels formed in each of the first and second bones, and the implant assembly being intended to be introduced into the bone tunnels and to be fixated therein, in which the prosthetic implant assembly comprises:

a prosthetic ligament to be fitted in at least one of the bone tunnels; and,  
a degradable adhesive and / or filler material (which may provide permanent or temporary fixation) to be introduced into said one bone tunnel to fill the space available between at least part of the prosthetic ligament and the wall of the bone tunnel, said material being of such a nature that (a) it is capable of setting in order temporarily to anchor said part of the ligament in position, and (b) it degrades over time such as to allow natural boney ingrowth to take over the anchoring of the prosthetic ligament.

2. A prosthetic implant kit for implantation in a bone tunnel in a bone joint, said kit comprising:

a prosthetic implant to be fitted in said bone tunnel;  
a degradable adhesive and / or filler material to be introduced into said bone tunnel to fill the space available between at least part of the prosthetic implant and the wall of the bone tunnel, said material being of such a nature that (a) it is capable of setting in order temporarily to anchor said part of the implant in position, and (b) it degrades over time such as to allow natural boney ingrowth to take over the anchoring of the prosthetic implant; and,

a tunnel profiler to form an enlarged entry cavity to the bone tunnel to be filled with said material, and improve the temporary fixation of the implant.

3. A method of installing a prosthetic implant in a bone joint between first and second bones, such as the knee joint between a femur and a tibia, in which:

bone tunnels are formed in each of the first and second bones;  
a prosthetic implant is taken through the bone tunnels; and,

a degradable adhesive and / or filler material is introduced into at least part of one of the tunnels and which is caused or allowed to set in order temporarily to anchor part of the implant in position, such material being of such a type as to degrade over time such as to allow natural boney ingrowth to take over the anchoring of the implant.

4. A prosthetic implant assembly according to Claim 1, in which the degradable adhesive and/or filler material comprises a bone cement.
5. A prosthetic implant kit according to Claim 2, in which the degradable adhesive and/or filler material is a bone cement.
6. A method according to Claim 3, in which an enlarged entry cavity to a bone tunnel is formed by a tunnel profiler, and such cavity is filled with said material to improve the temporary fixation of the implant.
7. A method according to Claim 6, in which a fixation device is provided to aid fixation between the implant and said material.